DC
NO. 299 MAY 30430 35
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WE'VE KILLED THE BATMAN! HIS THREAT IS OVER!
AIEEEE!
LOOK BEHIND YOU-- HIS GHOST!

AAU SHOES
AAU SHUPERSTAR® VS. THE SINISTER SOLE IN "A RACE FOR LIFE!"
WITHOUT THE MIRACLE MEDICINE, TOMMY WILL DIE. BUT...
WHAT IS THE LIFE OF A MERE BOY TO THE SINISTER SOLE? THE POTION IS MINE! I'LL USE IT TO BRING THE WORLD TO ITS KNEES! NOT EVEN AAU SHUPERSTAR CAN CATCH ME NOW!
NEVER FEAR, M'AM! I'LL WIN THE RACE AGAINST TIME AND THE SINISTER SOLE! NO ONE CAN OUTRUN THE AAU SHUPERSTAR!
CURSES!
WOOZ
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, SINISTER SOLE!
OOF!
YANK!
IN MY AAU SHOES, I'VE SHOWN YOU, SINISTER SOLE, THAT YOUR EVIL POWER IS NO MATCH FOR MY SHUPERNATURAL STRENGTH!
AND SO...
GROAN... I'M A TOE-TAL FAILURE! A LOST SOLE...
IF THE SHOE FITS, SINISTER SOLE, WEAR IT!
THANKS TO YOU, SHUPERSTAR, AND YOUR AAU SHOES, I'LL BE ON MY FEET IN NO TIME!
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ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
THE BATMAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
NO WAY OUT! RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOST BIZARRE MYSTERY THAT HAS BAFFLED THE BATMAN IN YEARS-- THE CASE OF THE CRIMSON COFFIN-- HE HAS BEEN FORCED TO TAKE TIME OUT TO DEAL WITH THE FOOLHARDY ANTICS OF A WILD AND WOOLY INTERLOPER!
WELCOME, BATMAN! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU-- AND YOU HAVEN'T FAILED ME!
AND NOW-- MASK-TO-MASK-- THE CAPED CRUSADER AND HIS TORMENTOR MEET AT LAST!
"The Island of Purple Mist!"
SUDDENLY-- SIMULTANEOUSLY-- THE BLACK LIGHT GOES OUT-- TO BE REPLACED BY A SHIMMERING GOLDEN RAY!
ONE STEP OUTSIDE THAT CIRCLE-- AND YOU'RE A DEAD BATMAN!
WRITER: DAVID V. REED
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
ARTISTS: JOHN CALNAN & DICK GIORDANO * LETTERER: BEN ODA * COLORIST: JERRY SERPE

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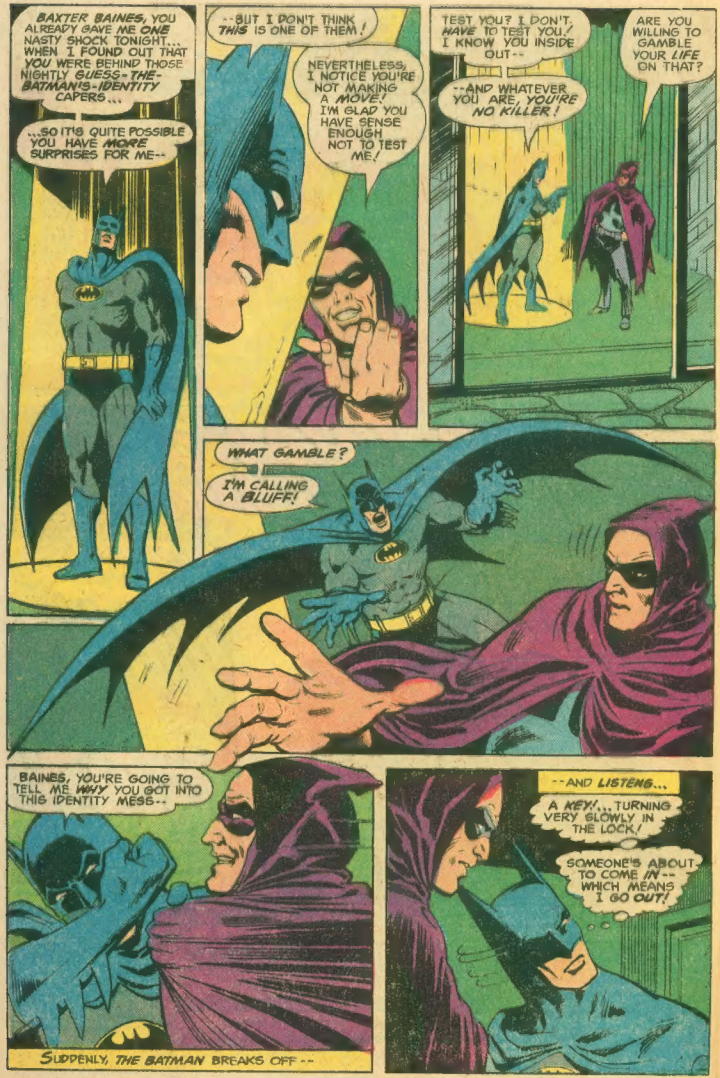
BAXTER BAINES, YOU ALREADY GAVE ME ONE NASTY SHOCK TONIGHT... WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE BEHIND THOSE NIGHTLY GUESS-THE-BATMAN'S-IDENTITY CAPERS...
...SO IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE YOU HAVE MORE SURPRISES FOR ME--
--BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS ONE OF THEM!
NEVERTHELESS, I NOTICE YOU'RE NOT MAKING A MOVE! I'M GLAD YOU HAVE SENSE ENOUGH NOT TO TEST ME!
TEST YOU? I DON'T HAVE TO TEST YOU! I KNOW YOU INSIDE OUT--
--AND WHATEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE NO KILLER!
ARE YOU WILLING TO GAMBLE YOUR LIFE ON THAT?
WHAT GAMBLE?
I'M CALLING A BLUFF!
BAINES, YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHY YOU GOT INTO THIS IDENTITY MESS--
--AND LISTENS...
A KEY!...TURNING VERY SLOWLY IN THE LOCK!
SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO COME IN -- WHICH MEANS I GO OUT!
SUDDENLY, THE BATMAN BREAKS OFF --

GET A LOAD OF THAT--!
I TOLD YA HE MUST BE IN TIGHT WITH THE BATMAN! HE EVEN GOES IN FOR COSTUMES!
OKAY, SUCKER-- SPILL! WHO IS THE BATMAN?
WHY ASK ME?
LISTEN, CLOWN, I RECOGNIZED YA THE FIRST NIGHT Y'STARTED WITH THE BATMAN CLUES-- WHEN YA PUT UP THAT SIGN IN GOTHAM SQUARE!
I WAS ON THE NEXT ROOF ON-- ER-- BUSINESS!
WE DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU THEN--BUT YOU FINALLY GOT US CONVINCED!
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
BROTHER BAINES, YOU AIN'T ASSESSING YOUR SITUATION RIGHT! WE DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE BLOWING THE BATMAN'S COVER, AND WE DON'T CARE!
JUST HIP US TO WHO HE IS-- WE GOT A COUPLE OF OLD SCORES TO SETTLE WITH HIM!
SAVE YOUR BREATH! HE DOESN'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN YOU DO!
SO YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME-- AND MINE!
--AND MINE!
3

CONTINUED ON 3SP PAGE FOLLOWING

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WOW!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
BUT NOT FOR LONG! MY BUSINESS WITH YOU IS TOP PRIORITY!
BAINES, I WANT A STRAIGHT ANSWER! WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THIS PRETENSE ABOUT REVEALING MY IDENTITY?
NO PRETENSE! THE ANSWER--VERY SIMPLY--IS BECAUSE IT'S ON MY LIST!
WITH THAT, BAXTER BAINES LEADS THE WAY INTO HIS ADJOINING STUDY WHERE--
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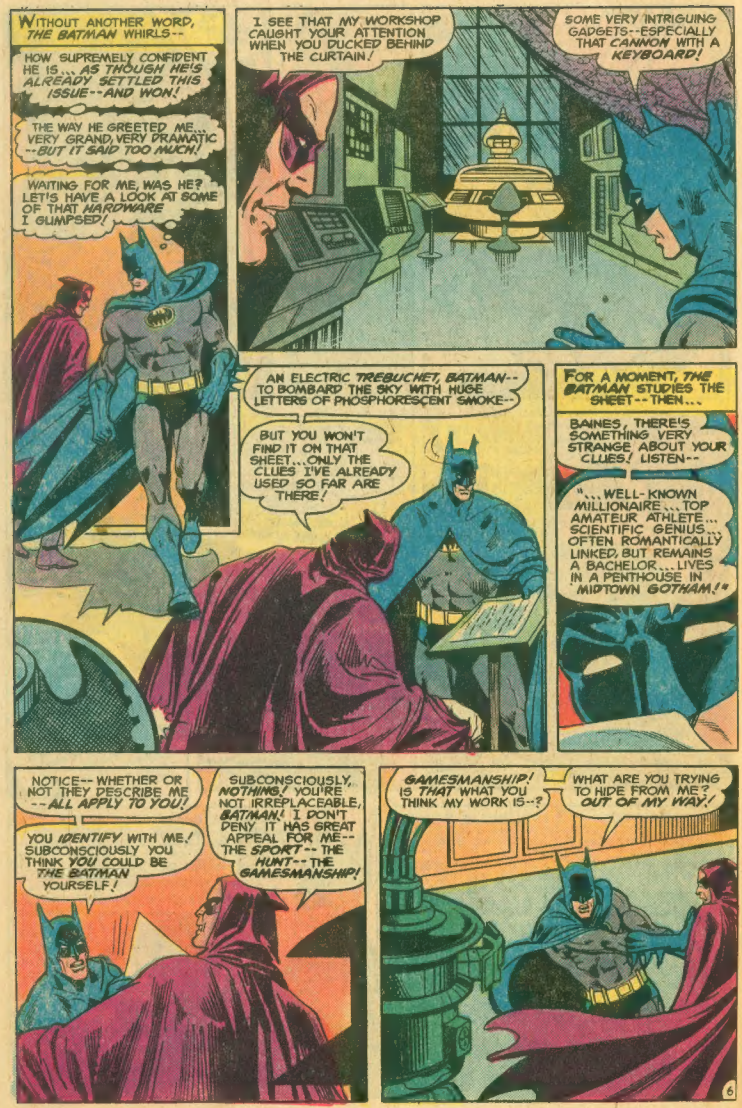
#5. REVEAL THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE BATMAN!
YES, I REMEMBER YOUR ACCOMPLISHING THE FOUR FEATS YOU'VE CHECKED OFF... REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS!
CHALLENGES, BATMAN! CHALLENGES TO ABSORB MY DYNAMIC ENERGIES!
FOR A MAN OF MY GENIUS, LIFE OFFERS TOO FEW NATURAL CHALLENGES! I MUST INVENT THEM FOR MYSELF!
ADMIRABLE, BAINES! BUT AS FOR NUMBER 5 ON YOUR LIST--THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO REALLY BELIEVE THOSE JUNK-CLUES OF YOURS, AND IT'S BEEN MAKING TROUBLE FOR ME!
SO FORGET IT--AS OF RIGHT NOW!
INDEED?... WELL, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT!


WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE BATMAN WHIRLS--
HOW SUPREMELY CONFIDENT HE IS... AS THOUGH HE'S ALREADY SETTLED THIS ISSUE--AND WON!
THE WAY HE GREETED ME... VERY GRAND, VERY DRAMATIC --BUT IT SAID TOO MUCH!
WAITING FOR ME, WAS HE? LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT SOME OF THAT HARDWARE I GLIMPSED!
I SEE THAT MY WORKSHOP CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION WHEN YOU DUCKED BEHIND THE CURTAIN!
SOME VERY INTRIGUING GADGETS--ESPECIALLY THAT CANNON WITH A KEYBOARD!
AN ELECTRIC TREBUCHET, BATMAN--TO BOMBARD THE SKY WITH HUGE LETTERS OF PHOSPHORESCENT SMOKE--
BUT YOU WON'T FIND IT ON THAT SHEET... ONLY THE CLUES I'VE ALREADY USED SO FAR ARE THERE!
FOR A MOMENT, THE BATMAN STUDIES THE SHEET--THEN...
BAINES, THERE'S SOMETHING VERY STRANGE ABOUT YOUR CLUES! LISTEN--
"...WELL-KNOWN MILLIONAIRE... TOP AMATEUR ATHLETE... SCIENTIFIC GENIUS... OFTEN ROMANTICALLY LINKED, BUT REMAINS A BACHELOR... LIVES IN A PENTHOUSE IN MIDTOWN GOTHAM!"
NOTICE--WHETHER OR NOT THEY DESCRIBE ME --ALL APPLY TO YOU!
YOU IDENTIFY WITH ME! SUBCONSCIOUSLY YOU THINK YOU COULD BE THE BATMAN YOURSELF!
SUBCONSCIOUSLY, NOTHING! YOU'RE NOT IRREPLACEABLE, BATMAN! I DON'T DENY IT HAS GREAT APPEAL FOR ME--THE SPORT--THE HUNT--THE GAMESMANSHIP!
GAMESMANSHIP! IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK MY WORK IS--?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE FROM ME? OUT OF MY WAY!
6

A BEAUTIFULLY TOOLED MACHINE... ODD SORT OF GENERATOR... WITH OVERHEAD CABLES LEADING BACK TO THE TERRACE ENTRANCE -- TO THAT GOLDEN LIGHT!
SUDDENLY, BAINES LAUNCHES A LIGHTNING MOVE!...
STILL PLAYING GAMES, HUH?
EVER SEE A MOVE LIKE THIS?
FOOSH
THUP
...MANY TIMES! WHEN I STUDIED TAEKWONDO IN KOREA!
FOR SOMEONE WHO SUPPOSEDLY KNOWS MY IDENTITY -- YOU'RE AMAZINGLY ANXIOUS TO SEE WHO'S BEHIND MY MASK!

HOOOSH
NOW... LET'S RESTORE YOU TO REALITY!
STRIP AWAY YOUR ILLUSIONS!
BRING YOU BACK TO BASICS!
THERE! NOW YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER JERK IN A JUMP-SUIT!
NO MORE! I'M ALL THROUGH! YOU HAVE MY WORD!
OKAY-- NOW COOL OFF!
SPLASH
LET'S SEE WHAT THERE IS ABOUT THIS THING THAT MADE HIM ATTACK ME WHEN I APPROACHED IT!
QUICKLY, THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE PRODUCES AN ARRAY OF LENSES...
A PHOTOACTINIC EFFECT-- COMPLETELY INVISIBLE UNLESS SEEN THROUGH A COORDINATE LENS!
MY CLOTHES--MY SKIN-- I'M COVERED WITH A CHEMICAL RADIANCE FROM HEAD TO FOOT... AND WITH A PROPER LENS, EQUALLY VISIBLE IN DAYLIGHT!
THE CLUE-CAPERS WERE DESIGNED TO GET ME HERE-- UNDER THAT BEAM!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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HI, WONDER WOMAN
HI, KIDS. COME ON OVER HERE FOR SOME HOSTESS® TWINKIES® SNACK CAKES!
THAT'LL GET THEM OUT OF DANGER WHILE I STOP THE TRAIN.
GOLLY, DO I LIKE TWINKIES SNACK CAKES. I LOVE THE LUSCIOUS CREAMED FILLING.
SCREEECH
I LIKE THE MOIST SPONGE CAKE.
MMMM GOOD.
DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL.
THANKS FOR SAVING US, WONDER WOMAN.
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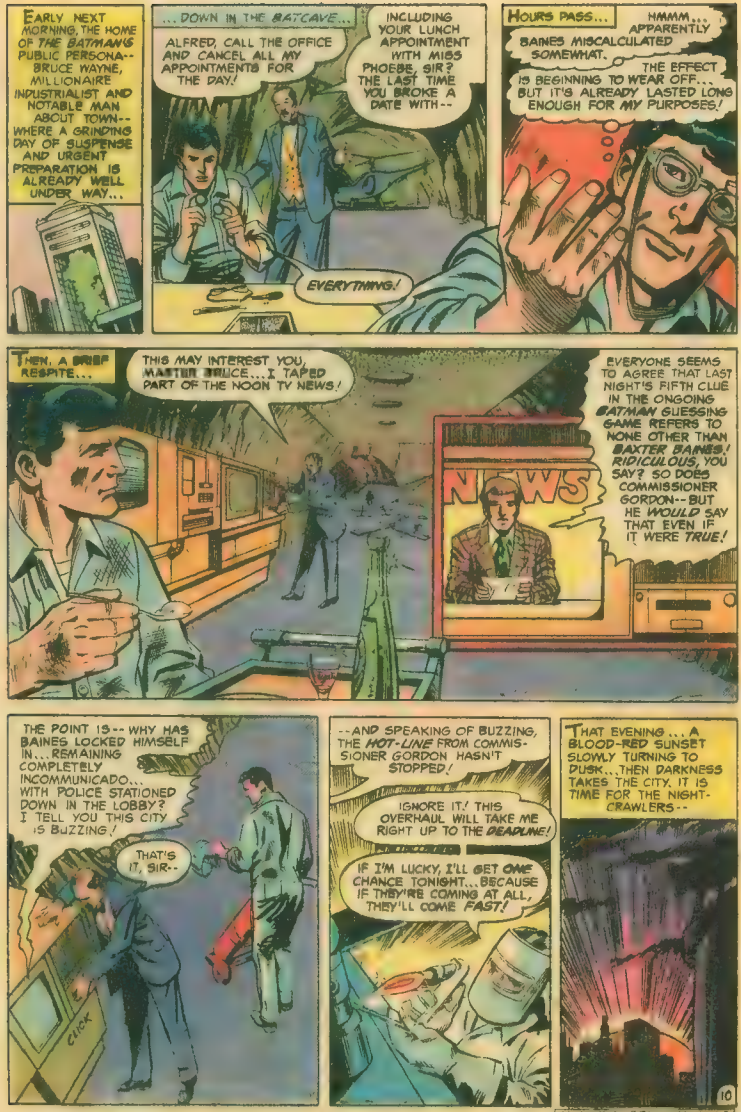
--RESTAURANTS...DISCOS...OFFICE BUILDINGS--AND LONG BEFORE THAT EFFECT WORE OFF...I'D PICK YOU OUT OF A CROWD FROM HALF A MILE AWAY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BATMAN? SPEECHLESS WITH ADMIRATION?
BAXTER, IN SPITE OF YOURSELF, YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH A BREAK I BADLY NEEDED!
SO I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A BREAK TOO--A CHANCE TO REALIZE YOUR SECRET AMBITION!
LET'S PUT YOUR TREBUCHET TO WORK A LITTLE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE! REMEMBER, EVERY CLUE YOU GAVE SO FAR ACTUALLY PERTAINS TO YOU!
BUT NOW WE'LL MAKE THAT UNMISTAKABLE--WITH CLUE NUMBER 5!
BATMAN CLUE 5: HIS REAL INITIALS ARE B.B.
B.B.? B-BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHO FITS ALL FIVE CLUES!
--AND WHOEVER WANTS TO TAKE A CRACK AT THE BATMAN WILL NOW KNOW WHERE TO COME--TO TAKE A CRACK AT YOU!
WHAT--?!?
THE MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHEN? BUT DON'T WORRY--YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE BATMAN!
SEE IF IT REALLY IS YOUR AMBITION--OR SHOULD I SAY--YOUR GAME?
B-BATMAN--Y-YOU'VE SIGNED MY DEATH WARRANT!
LET'S WAIT... AND SEE...!
THIRTY MINUTES LATER...
BAINES GOT THE MESSAGE! HERE COMES AN ARMORED TRUCK--AND HALF A DOZEN GUARDS WITH SHOTGUNS!
--AND THERE GOES BAINES--RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE TO WHO KNOWS WHERE!
--WHICH LEAVES THINGS JUST THE WAY I WANT THEM--FOR TOMORROW NIGHT!


EARLY NEXT MORNING, THE HOME OF THE BATMAN'S PUBLIC PERSONA--BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST AND NOTABLE MAN ABOUT TOWN--WHERE A GRINDING DAY OF SUSPENSE AND URGENT PREPARATION IS ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY...
...DOWN IN THE BAT-CAVE...
ALFRED, CALL THE OFFICE AND CANCEL ALL MY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE DAY!
INCLUDING YOUR LUNCH APPOINTMENT WITH MISS PHOEBE, SIR? THE LAST TIME YOU BROKE A DATE WITH--
EVERYTHING!
HOURS PASS...
HMMM... APPARENTLY BAINES MISCALCULATED SOMEWHAT.
THE EFFECT IS BEGINNING TO WEAR OFF... BUT IT'S ALREADY LASTED LONG ENOUGH FOR MY PURPOSES!
THEN, A BRIEF RESPITE...
THIS MAY INTEREST YOU, MASTER BRUCE... I TAPED PART OF THE NOON TV NEWS!
NEWS
EVERYONE SEEMS TO AGREE THAT LAST NIGHT'S FIFTH CLUE IN THE ONGOING BATMAN GUESSING GAME REFERS TO NONE OTHER THAN BAXTER BARNS! RIDICULOUS, YOU SAY? SO DOES COMMISSIONER GORDON--BUT HE WOULD SAY THAT EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE!
THE POINT IS--WHY HAS BAINES LOCKED HIMSELF IN...REMAINING COMPLETELY INCOMMUNICADO... WITH POLICE STATIONED DOWN IN THE LOBBY? I TELL YOU THIS CITY IS BUZZING!
THAT'S IT, SIR--
CLICK
--AND SPEAKING OF BUZZING, THE HOT-LINE FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON HASN'T STOPPED!
IGNORE IT! THIS OVERHAUL WILL TAKE ME RIGHT UP TO THE DEADLINE!
IF I'M LUCKY, I'LL GET ONE CHANCE TONIGHT... BECAUSE IF THEY'RE COMING AT ALL, THEY'LL COME FAST!
THAT EVENING... A BLOOD-RED SUNSET SLOWLY TURNING TO DUSK... THEN DARKNESS TAKES THE CITY. IT IS TIME FOR THE NIGHT-CRAWLERS--
10
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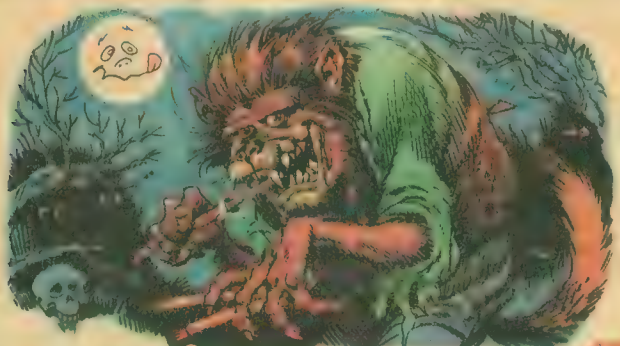
Satisfy your meat tooth.



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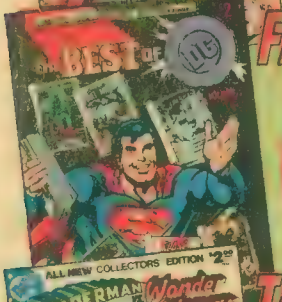

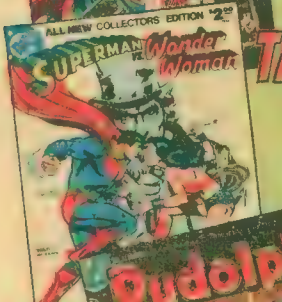

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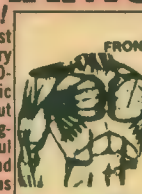

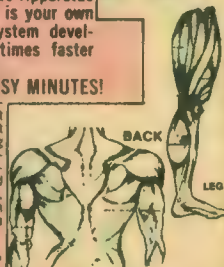

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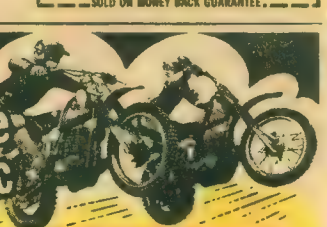

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...BUT AS THEY CROSS THE THRESHOLD --ALL AT ONCE..
HEY! WHAT'S THAT LIGHT FOR?
GET OUT OF IT, FAST!
A THOUSAND FEET UP, THE BATCOPTER HANGS IN SPACE...
THE CARIB ASSASSINS! THEY MOVE IN A STRAIGHT LINE...LIKE AUTOMATONS--WIND THEM UP AND THEY GO!
SHORTLY...
GREAT! THEY'RE LIT UP LIKE BEACONS!
AND LIKE BEACONS, THE BATMAN'S QUARRY LEADS HIM SWIFTLY TO AN EAST SIDE MARINA...
THE HUNTED AND THE HUNTER SPEED NORTH...

FOR ALMOST AN HOUR, THE UNSEEN "BAT" AND BOAT SPEED UP RIVER, THEN EAST ACROSS GOTHAM BAY TO ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE OCEAN. THERE, CREATED BY THE ABRUPT TEMPERATURE CHANGE OF THE WATERS--
--HUGE BANKS OF PURPLE MIST SUDDENLY ENVELOP THEM...
LOST 'EM!
BUT RADAR SHOWS AN ISLAND BELOW--WHICH CAN ONLY BE THE ISLAND FROM ALDRICH'S PICTURES!
THE BOAT'S MOVING INSIDE THE LAND MASS--ON AN INLET TO THE CENTER OF THE ISLAND!
GENTLY...SOUNDLESSLY...DROPS THE BATCOPTER, THEN, AT 200 FEET, THE HAZE RARIFIES... SCATTERS..., UNTIL...
WHAT A HAUNTED SCENE!
MOMENTS LATER...
POLICE STILL GUARD THE PLACE -- BUT THE BATMAN WAS GONE! HE MUST HAVE FLED THE CITY!
FLED?... THAT FIEND OF DARKNESS? NO, RICO, UNLESS WE FIND HIM AND PUT AN END TO HIM, HE WILL FIND US... AND END US!
BUT HE HAS ALREADY MADE OUR SITUATION CRITICAL! OUR MEMBERS KNOW HE LIVES--AND THAT WE HAVE TWICE FAILED TO KILL HIM!
FEAR AND DOUBT WRACK OUR ORGANIZATION! PEOPLE WAIT IN FIVE CITIES FOR THE ASSASSINS WE PROMISED--BUT WE DARE NOT DELIVER UNTIL CONTROL OVER THEM IS ABSOLUTE!
AND THAT CONTROL CAN BE REAFFIRMED IN ONLY ONE WAY--THE SACRIFICIAL RITES!
FOR DAYS WE HAVE POSTPONED DESTROYING ALDRICH, BECAUSE I GAVE MY WORD THAT THE BATMAN WOULD DIE WITH HIM IN A DOUBLE CEREMONY!
BUT WE CAN WAIT NO LONGER! MY WORD MUST BE UPHELD!
THE RITES WILL TAKE PLACE NOW! ALDRICH AND THE BATMAN WILL DIE TOGETHER!
12

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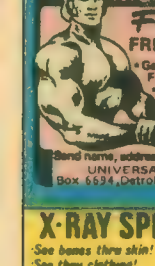

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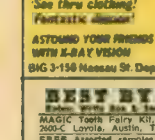

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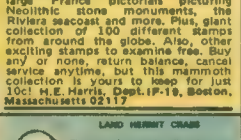

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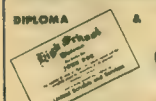

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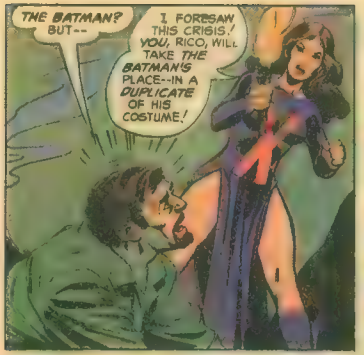
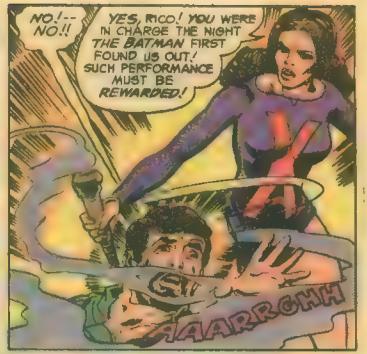
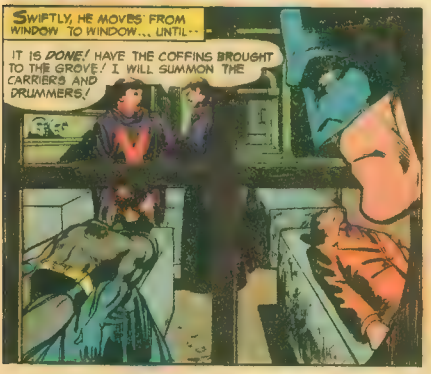
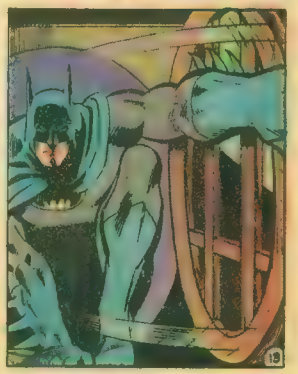

THE BATMAN? BUT--
I FORESAW THIS CRISIS! YOU, RICO, WILL TAKE THE BATMAN'S PLACE--IN A DUPLICATE OF HIS COSTUME!


NO!-- NO!!
YES, RICO! YOU WERE IN CHARGE THE NIGHT THE BATMAN FIRST FOUND US OUT! SUCH PERFORMANCE MUST BE REWARDED!
AAARRGHH

TAKE HIM TO THE CHAMBER WITH THE OTHER! THEN SOUND THE RADA DRUMS FOR THE CEREMONY!

NO MATTER WHAT-- MY FIRST CONSIDERATION IS ALDRICH!
THEN, IF THERE'S STILL TIME--


SWIFTLY, HE MOVES FROM WINDOW TO WINDOW... UNTIL--
IT IS DONE! HAVE THE COFFINS BROUGHT TO THE GROVE! I WILL SUMMON THE CARRIERS AND DRUMMERS!



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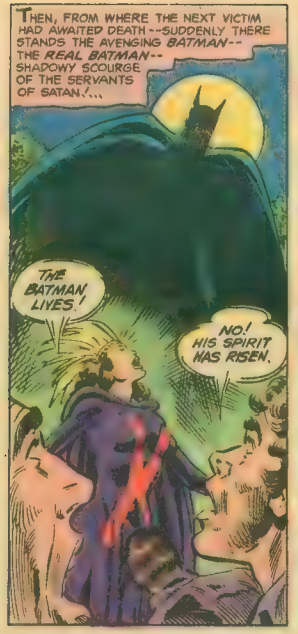
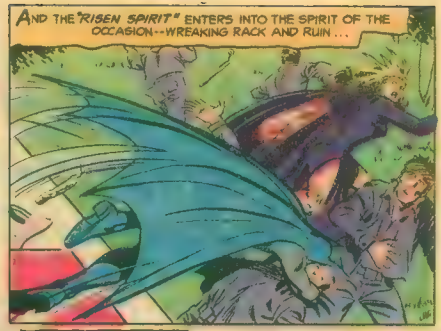
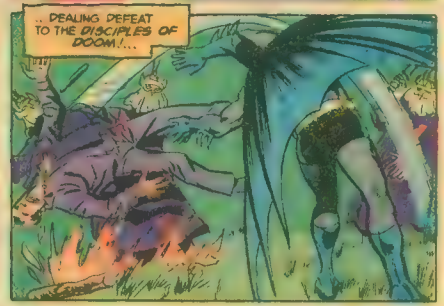
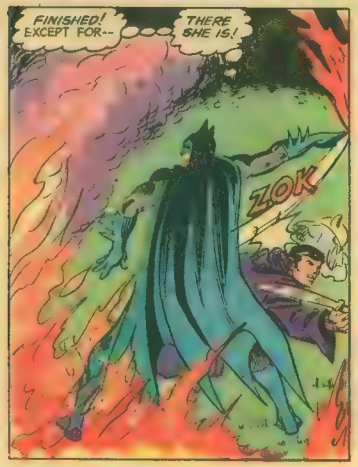
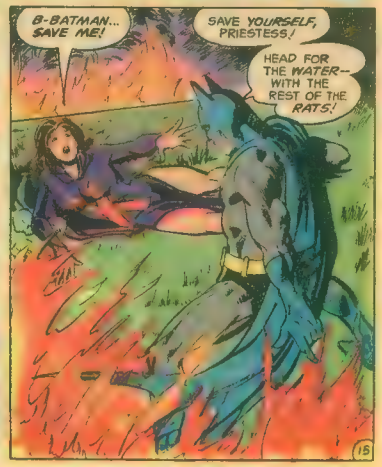
HG-R-R-U-U-U-U-U HGR
SWAYING, WRITHING, CHANTING... DELIRIUM MOUNTS WITH THE THUNDER OF THE DRUMS!
HGR-R-R-R-R-R-O-O-O
THE DANCERS DEDICATE THEIR AWAITING VICTIMS TO RAPADOU-- THE ORACLE OF DEMONS...
...UNTIL...
NOW...
KILL!
WHACK
HGR-R-R-R-R-R-U-U-U-R-O-O
WHEREUPON THE GROVE ERUPTS IN CONVULSIVE FRENZY!
14


THEN, FROM WHERE THE NEXT VICTIM HAD AWAITED DEATH--SUDDENLY THERE STANDS THE AVENGING BATMAN--THE REAL BATMAN--SHADOWY SCOURGE OF THE SERVANTS OF SATAN!...
THE BATMAN LIVES!
NO! HIS SPIRIT HAS RISEN.


AND THE "RISEN SPIRIT" ENTERS INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE OCCASION--WREAKING RACK AND RUIN...


...DEALING DEFEAT TO THE DISCIPLES OF DOOM!...


FINISHED! EXCEPT FOR--
THERE SHE IS!
ZOK


B-BATMAN... SAVE ME!
SAVE YOURSELF, PRIESTESS!
HEAD FOR THE WATER--WITH THE REST OF THE RATS!
EEK!

ONLY ONE WAY OFF THE ISLAND NOW--
--AND THIS IS IT!
SWIFTLY, THE BATCOPTER RISES ABOVE THE RAGING INFERNO...
IF ALDRICH CAME TO NOW -- AND SAW THIS--HE'D PROBABLY PASS OUT AGAIN!
SECONDS LATER...
THE END OF THE BATBOAT--AND THE MYSTERY!
WROOOOMM
IT IS ALMOST DAWN AT POLICE H.Q., THE BATMAN AND COMMISSIONER GORDON WATCH A LIVE, CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV TRANSMISSION COMING FROM A DEPARTMENT COPTER...
BUT ONCE YOU'D SAFELY REMOVED ALDRICH TO THE BATCOPTER, YOU HAD ONLY TO DISABLE THEIR BOAT AND THEY'D BE TRAPPED! WHY DID YOU GO BACK?
TRAPPING THEM WASN'T ENOUGH! THEIR DRUGGED, MINDLESS FAITH IN THEIR MAMALOI PRIESTESS HAD TO BE DEMOLISHED--
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"BUT IT WORKED OUT EVEN BETTER THAN I HOPED! THEIR ATTACK DOGS WERE LOCKED-UP AND THEIR GUNMEN UNARMED..."

YOU SEE, SIR, I EXPECTED THEY'D GO FOR ALDRICH *FIRST*--TO BUILD THE HYSTERIA FOR *THE BATMAN'S* EXECUTION--AND THEY PROBABLY WOULDVE IF RICO HADN'T STIRRED!

AS IT WAS, ONE INSTANT THEY'D KILLED *THE BATMAN* AND WERE READY TO GO AT ALDRICH--AND SUDDENLY ALDRICH WAS GONE AND *ANOTHER BATMAN* HAD MATERIALIZED!

WELL, MR. ... AH... "*BAINES*," I HAVE A RADIOGRAM HERE--AND STRANGELY ENOUGH, IT'S *FROM* YOU--*TO* YOU!

CLICK

RADIOGRAM

TO: THE BATMAN
GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

THANKS! TOOK YOUR LESSON TO HEART AND AM COOLING OFF IN CAPRI!

(SIGNED)
BAXTER BAINES
THE CAPRI-CIOUS KOOK!

WHAT WAS THAT *PUN* ABOUT?

A PRIVATE JOKE, COMMISSIONER--ONLY I'M *NOT LAUGHING*!

COMING NEXT ISSUE: *BATMAN* #300... AND A *DOUBLE-LENGTH* SPECIAL: "THE LAST BATMAN STORY--?"

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN MARCH

Okay, don't move! Before we even *start* this letter column we're going to tell you about *BATMAN #300 (next issue)* before we run out of room! This special anniversary issue will feature a double-length story by David V. Reed entitled "The Last Batman Story—?" and it is unlike anything you have ever seen in this magazine before. Art is *scheduled* to be done by Dick Giordano (and hoping he can squeeze it into his mammoth work-load!) So don't dare miss this double-size dynamite, *BATMAN #300*, when it goes on sale the week of March!

And now, on to the letters . . .

Dear Editor:

Mark **BATMAN #285** in your memory banks, my friends. We are about to witness the new Golden age of **Batman.** (Please pardon my gilded double entendre.) When Mike Grell became **The Batman's** regular artist, I was annoyed, because I don't think Mike's style is suited to the Caped Crusader. That was followed by the "Who Killed Batman" series, with equally unsuited art. But now, thanks to Gerry Conway and Michael Golden, **The Batman** has regained his notoriety.

"The Adventure of the Houdini Whodunit" was not that baffling a mystery, but it was perhaps one of the most original ones to ever appear in a **Batman** magazine. Befitting this type of story was the long-awaited return of the **Gotham Mystery Analysts,** pleasing me no end to learn that the group had remained intact.

As I said, the mystery wasn't so baffling, but it was made special by several original elements: the use of magicians and illusionists, the appearance of real-life mentalist Glenn Falkenstein, and that of the Magic Palace (the Gotham version of Los Angeles' Magic Castle.)

Yet, considering all this, it was really Mike Golden's artwork that made the issue a classic. Graphically, Mike is as precise and original as his **DETECTIVE COMIC** counterpart, Marshall Rogers, but Golden adds a bit more realism and fluidity to his style. Graphics were matched by superb action sequences and a portrayal of **The Batman** as the frightening man he is. How Julie Schwartz managed to rob Fort Knox and get away with it is beyond me, but I sincerely hope that the Golden age is here to stay.

TONY EDWARDS
454 N. Normoss Ave.
Los Angeles,CA 90036

The Golden age is in full swing, Tony, but not in this magazine. Mike is currently handling *Man-Bat* in *BATMAN FAMILY* (with the strong possibility that he'll be picking up the *Batman* art chores in that mag too) and has followed in the ink-spots of Marshall Rogers by taking over *MISTER MIRACLE*—*BR*

Dear Julie,

"The Adventure of the Houdini Whodunit" was excellent!

The return of the **Mystery Analysts,** a group I never particularly cared for, was handled quite well, giving each of the members a lot more characterization than they've ever had before. (Particularly Kaye Daye.) The story was quite a legitimate whodunit in the John Dickson Carr tradition (or rather, a howdunit) and the only "cheat" was in the ending, in which you didn't explain how Monroe managed that illusion at the bar.

And the impossible escape! Would a **Batman** tale be complete without one? Using an actual Houdini trap to imprison him—and then the ultra-simple, ultra-obvious method he used to escape—was in the best **Batman** tradition

I will fault Gerry Conway's dialogue only once, when Monroe started to confess to **Batman** in the middle of a fight. Sure he would! But I guess dramatic license must be allowed.

Finally, while I prefer super-villains somewhat similar to **Batman** himself, an occasional issue like this is a breath of fresh air . . . particularly when you get a story-and-art team like Conway and Golden.

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See? Now if we had waited till the end to tell you about *BATMAN #300*, we'd be out of room for it, since all we have space for is—Bob Rozakis

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(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Arthur Gutowski, Business Manager

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THE DC FEATURE PAGE

Q: How does one gain entrance to the field of comic book writing?—Mark Corsey. *A:* The best way is to submit plot outlines for proposed stories, with a sample page of a full script. It is not a wise idea to write an entire script before the editor okays the plot because if he doesn't like the basic premise, you've wasted a lot of time. Realize, however, that our editors have heavy workloads and don't have the time to go through submissions immediately—it may take weeks before you get a response.

Q: Does the *Green Lantern* of Earth-Two work for the Guardians?—Brian Steinberg. *A:* No, his origin is totally different, and that's something which will be explored in the *GREEN LANTERN SPECIAL*, coming your way in May.

Q: In *SUPERBOY #219, Shrinking Violet* is called an Imskite, but in *#232*, she's called an Imskian. Why the difference?—Mark Evans. *A:* The terms are interchangeable, just as an alien could refer to you as an Earther, Earthman, Earthling or Terran.

Q: Were *RAGMAN #6* or *THE JOKER #10* ever published?—Paul Baize. *A:* No, both mags were discontinued with the previous issues.

Q: When was the first DC Comic published?—Frank Semeia. *A: NEW FUN COMICS #1* was dated February, 1935 and later became *MORE FUN COMICS*. Our longest-running title is *ADVENTURE COMICS*, which began as *NEW COMICS* in December, 1935.

Q: Could you explain the connection between *Omac* and *Kamandi*?—Ken Daly. *A: Omac* is *Kamandi*'s grandfather, and that connection will be further explored when the One Man Army Corps gets a solo feature in the back of his grandson's magazine!

Q: Will *KAMANDI, NEW GODS* or *STARFIRE* ever become monthlies?—M.H. *A:* Frequency depends on sales, so if the sales on the books go up, they get "promoted" to monthlies. Since *STARFIRE* was cancelled, that would seem to eliminate her chances.

Q: Can you name some heroes who have died and come back to life?—Paul Ryneski. *A: Lightning Lad* of the *Legion* is one, *Robotman* of the *Doom Patrol* is another, and both *Deadman* and the *Spectre* were created when their alter-egos were killed.

Q: Who is the black *Legionnaire* on the *SUPERBOY/LEGION LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION*?—Mat Kramer. *A:* Tyroc.

Q: When are you going to put the origin of Kotter in *SECRET ORIGINS*?—Gary Fraser. *A:* As soon as we find out what his secret origin is!

Got a question for the Answer Man? Send it to BOB ROZAKIS, DC Comics, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019.

dc profiles number 31

kurt schaffenberger

Ask any comic book fan who grew up in the 1960s who *Kurt Schaffenberger* is and he'll say "Oh, he's the guy who drew *Lois Lane*."

Ask the same question of a comic book fan from the early 1950s and he'll probably say, "Kurt Schaffenberger is the man who drew *Captain Marvel*."

And if you're a comic book fan of today, you're probably familiar with Kurt's work on the Lois Lane feature in *Superman Family*, his Captain Marvel work for *Shazam!* and his *World's Finest* stories.

All of which just goes to show the remarkable staying power of this talented artist who's been drawing comic books since 1941!

Kurt Schaffenberger had just graduated from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn when he landed a job inking backgrounds for the Jack Binder shop which was turning out whole comic books for Fawcett.

But like so many of his generation, World War II interfered with his budding career and Kurt wound up in the Army. By the end of the war, he found himself working for the OSS translating information from Allied spies behind Nazi lines.

Back in the States after the war, Kurt found work as a freelancer for Fawcett and soon became the main artist for *Captain Marvel*. By the time Fawcett folded its comics line in 1953, Kurt was drawing virtually the entire series—*Captain Marvel, Captain Marvel Jr.*, and *Marvel Family* in addition to occasional work on *Mary Marvel*.

For the next four years, Kurt did some commercial art as well as work for ACG and Atlas Comics. Then, while vacationing in Maine in 1957, he got a call from DC writer Otto Binder (a friend from his days at Fawcett). DC was giving Lois Lane her own title. Was Kurt interested in drawing it? He was. A few samples he sketched of the character prompted editor Mort Weisinger to give him the assignment. Since then, he's drawn every member of the Superman family.

In 1974, Kurt became the regular artist on *Shazam!* while continuing his work on *Superman Family*.

Kurt's artwork also graces the front of the recently published *Shazam!* hardback, published by Harmony Books.

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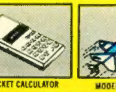

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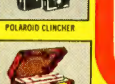

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Awarded in our promptness contest in addition to the prizes and money you earn selling seeds.

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☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ All Vegetable Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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